

NAIROBI | 10, MARCH

Data Commissioner Advocates for Collaborative, Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Balance Innovation and Accountability in Data Governance



Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait has underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in achieving the balance between innovation and accountability in data governance.

She said this during the 2nd East Africa Data Governance Conference, uniting diverse stakeholders under the theme “Navigating Duality in Data Governance: Innovation and Accountability in East Africa.”

The conference gathered policymakers, technologists, innovators, researchers, journalists, civil society leaders, and private sector representatives from across the region to explore strategies for balancing innovation with accountability. The discussions aimed to foster a responsible, rights-focused digital future for East Africa.

She emphasized that collaboration is essential to ensure that technological advancements align with the principles of rights, transparency, and accountability.

“It is important to recognize that data protection is not a barrier to technological progress but a critical enabler of it. It is important to broaden regional dialogue beyond mere data protection to encompass ownership, sovereignty, ethics, interoperability, and the economics of data, we must involve all players to avoid a narrow-minded approach,” she said.

The Data Commissioner also highlighted the importance of harmonizing technology-related policies, including data protection laws within the region, noting that lack of alignment across countries can complicate compliance for businesses operating regionally.

She further noted that Kenya is developing regulations to guide cross-border data transfers and strengthen secure data flows, alongside frameworks such as the Data Sharing Code of Practice and sector-specific guidelines to support responsible, accountable, and interoperable data practices.

“We are developing regulations that address cross-border data transfers, ensuring that data can flow securely while protecting the rights of data subjects. Additionally, the Data Sharing Code of Practice and sector specific guidelines provide organizations with practical tools to implement responsible, accountable, and interoperable data practices,” she said.

During the conference, she also joined other panelists, including the Director General of the Personal Data Protection Commission of Tanzania Emmanuel Mkilia, for a panel discussion: “Governing in the Grey – Can East Africa Balance Tech Growth with Rights?”

The session brought together regional regulators, civil society, and private sector leaders to explore opportunities and challenges in governing data within a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

NAIROBI | 29, JANUARY

ODPC Engages Public on Privacy Rights in Digital Kenya

The Deputy Data Commissioner, John Walubengo (OGW), participated in an X Spaces conversation hosted by Nation Media Group through its platform Nation Africa, focusing on the state of data protection in Kenya.

The discussion brought together legal experts, technologists, human rights advocates, and privacy officers to examine key issues surrounding the protection of personal data in an increasingly digital society.

As Kenya’s digital footprint continued to expand, participants highlighted growing concerns about data breaches, the use of consent forms, and the increasing amount of personal information collected by digital platforms and applications.

Speakers noted that many digital services request access to personal data that users may not fully understand or actively review, raising important questions about transparency, accountability, and user awareness in the handling of personal information.

The conversation, titled “Taking Control of Your Privacy: What Every Kenyan Needs to Know About Data Protection,” emphasized the importance of empowering citizens with knowledge about their rights under the Data Protection Act, 2019. It also examined the responsibility of organizations and institutions that collect, process, and store personal data to ensure compliance with the law.

Participants further discussed the accountability of data handlers, the role of regulatory oversight, and the need for stronger transparency within the digital ecosystem. The session aimed to strengthen public understanding of data protection and encourage responsible data handling practices across sectors.

NAIROBI | 05, FEBRUARY

ODPC Engages Network Service Providers



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) received a courtesy call from the Network Service Providers Association of Kenya (NESPAK). The engagement focused on introductory discussions and compliance matters relating to the association’s members and their obligations under Kenya’s data protection framework.

During the meeting, representatives from ODPC and NESPAK discussed the importance of ensuring that network service providers adhere to the requirements of the Data Protection Act, 2019, particularly in the proper handling, processing, and protection of personal data.

The discussion also explored ways to strengthen collaboration between the regulatory authority and industry stakeholders in promoting responsible data management practices.

The courtesy call provided an opportunity to introduce NESPAK members to ODPC’s compliance expectations, highlight best practices in data protection, and discuss mechanisms for supporting members in implementing robust privacy and security measures within their organizations.

The engagement reflected ODPC’s ongoing efforts to foster partnerships with key industry players, promote compliance with data protection laws, and enhance the protection of personal data across Kenya’s digital and network service ecosystem.

ODPC Shares Digital Protection Insights with Angolan Delegation



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) hosted an Angolan delegation for a knowledge exchange on Kenya's digitization journey and leadership in Africa's technology sector. The engagement focused on how Kenya's digital transformation has improved service delivery and expanded financial inclusion, offering insights and best practices for the visiting delegation.

During the visit, ODPC officials highlighted the institution's structure and regulatory frameworks designed to safeguard citizens from digital exploitation and uphold the right to privacy. These measures were noted as key to strengthening public trust in the digital economy and ensuring the responsible management of personal data.

The discussions also explored Kenya's regional and international collaborations, including participation in the Network of African Data Protection Authorities and the Global Privacy Assembly. These platforms support cross-border data transfers, enhance compliance standards, and promote knowledge sharing on data protection best practices.

The engagement underscored Kenya's commitment to regional leadership in digital governance and data protection. It also highlighted the importance of regulatory oversight, institutional capacity building, and international cooperation in building secure, trustworthy, and inclusive digital ecosystems that benefit both citizens and businesses.

Journalists in Nakuru Trained on Responsible Data Practices



The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), in partnership with the Media Council of Kenya, held an engagement with journalists and content creators in Nakuru to sensitize media professionals on Kenya's data protection framework and the role of ODPC in regulating the processing of personal data.

The session highlighted the importance of responsible reporting and content creation in the digital age, emphasizing the need for media practitioners to understand how personal data should be handled and protected. Participants were also introduced to ODPC's regulatory frameworks and guidelines aimed at supporting compliance within media operations.

The engagement provided a platform for dialogue on how journalists can responsibly report on issues involving personal information while safeguarding the privacy rights of individuals. It also offered practical insights into best practices for handling personal data in journalistic work.

The session reaffirmed ODPC's commitment to strengthening public awareness of its mandate and promoting responsible data practices. It also underscored the important role of the media in shaping public conversations on privacy, fostering trust in Kenya's digital ecosystem, and supporting broader national efforts to promote responsible personal data management.

ODPC Meets with KPPA to Strengthen Corporate Data Governance

The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) hosted the outgoing and incoming leadership of the Kenya Privacy Professionals Association (KPPA) for a consultative engagement focused on strengthening compliance and enhancing the role of Data Protection Officers (DPOs) in corporate governance.

The session provided a platform to discuss strategies for ensuring that organizations comply with the requirements of the Data Protection Act, 2019. KPPA leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting organizations in meeting regulatory obligations, highlighting the importance of proactive compliance and continuous capacity building within corporate structures.

During the engagement, Immaculate Kassait, MBS, the Data Commissioner, emphasized the need for clear compliance measures, responsible data flows during service delivery, and well-structured cross-border data sharing agreements. She noted that these practices are essential for enabling secure and seamless data transfers while maintaining trust and accountability.

ODPC reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening collaboration with professional bodies and promoting a culture of accountability in data protection. Partnerships with organizations such as KPPA continue to play a key role in advancing privacy awareness and encouraging the adoption of best practices in data protection and compliance across sectors.



Strengthening Accountability: ODPC Commits to 2025/2026 Performance Targets

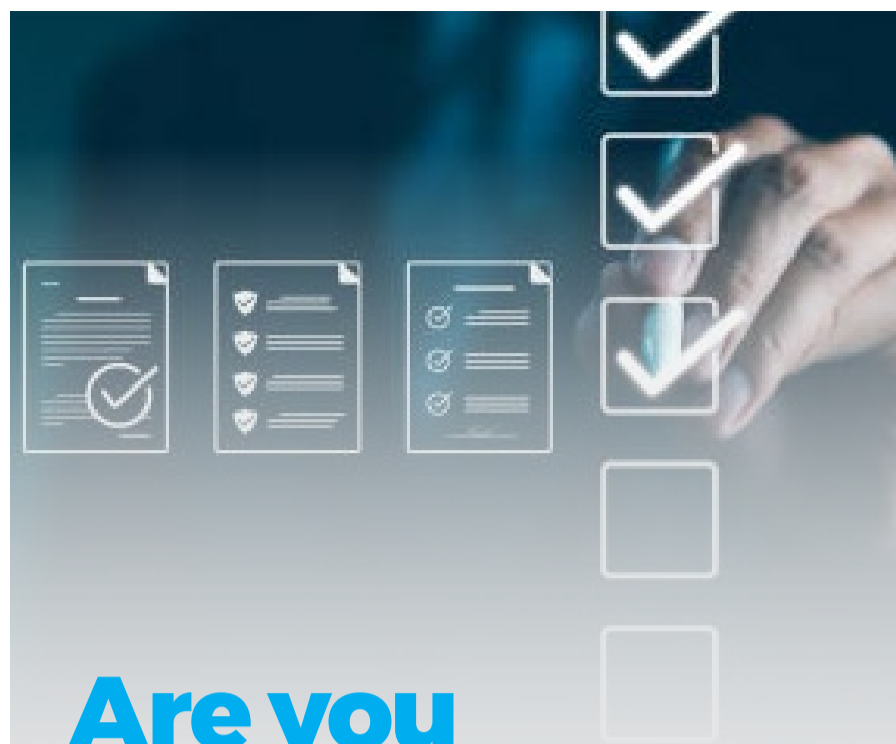


Data Commissioner Immaculate Kassait signed the 2025/2026 Performance Contract on behalf of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) with the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Digital Economy. The agreement formalized ODPC's commitment to achieving key performance targets and maintaining accountability for the period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

The performance contract outlines specific objectives and accountability standards, reinforcing ODPC's statutory mandate to regulate the processing of personal data, safeguard citizens' privacy, and strengthen trust in Kenya's digital ecosystem. The agreement also serves as a roadmap for the organization's strategic priorities over the coming year.

The signing ceremony was presided over by Cabinet Secretary William Kabogo Gitau, EGH, and witnessed by Principal Secretary John Tanui, CBS, from the State Department for ICT and the Digital Economy.

The exercise demonstrated ODPC's continued commitment to excellence, accountability, and effective delivery of its mandate in protecting personal data and promoting responsible digital practices across Kenya.



Are you Registered as a Data Controller or processor?

Play your critical role in ensuring a transparent, and accountable data processing ecosystem to encourage the upholding and safeguarding of privacy rights of persons and data subjects in Kenya.

For more information and assistance, email us on registration@odpc.go.ke

www.odpc.go.ke

Eldoret Journalists Engage with ODPC on Privacy and Responsible Reporting

In collaboration with the Media Council of Kenya, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) engaged journalists and media professionals in Eldoret in a session focused on Kenya's data protection framework and ODPC's mandate to regulate the processing of personal data.

Participants were taken through key principles of the Data Protection Act, 2019, including compliance requirements and the role of the media in promoting responsible data practices. The session emphasized that safeguarding personal data is both a legal obligation and a fundamental human right.

The discussion also highlighted the consequences of non-compliance, including potential fines, enforcement measures, reputational risks, and possible loss of market opportunities. Participants noted that adherence to data protection standards is essential for maintaining credibility and professionalism in media practice.

The engagement underscored the critical role of the media in shaping public awareness, advancing privacy rights, and fostering accountability within Kenya's digital ecosystem. Through informed reporting and responsible content creation, journalists were recognized as key partners in building a secure and trustworthy digital environment.



Mobile World Congress 2026: Data Commissioner Attends the Global Data Protection Roundtable



Immaculate Kassait - the Data Commissioner, participated in a closed-door Data Protection Authorities (DPA) Roundtable themed “Strengthening Safety and Trust through Mobile-led Innovation.” The session was sponsored by the GSMA and held during the Mobile World Congress 2026 in Barcelona, Spain.

During the discussion, the Data Commissioner highlighted the critical role of telecommunications companies and financial services providers in safeguarding personal data, particularly in relation to mobile subscriber numbers. She emphasized the need for robust mechanisms to manage recycled mobile numbers to ensure that the rights of new data subjects are protected and that previous users’ information is not improperly accessed or misused.

The roundtable brought together regulators and industry leaders to discuss how mobile-led innovation can advance digital services while maintaining trust, security, and privacy in evolving digital ecosystems. Participants explored practical strategies to strengthen data protection compliance, enhance subscriber safety, and promote accountability in the management of mobile and financial technology platforms.

Through participation in international forums such as Mobile World Congress, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner continues to position Kenya as a leader in digital governance and data protection, reinforcing the importance of trust, innovation, and privacy in mobile and financial services.

In Case you Didn't Know...

The Office of Data Protection Commissioner was created to safeguard your personal and sensitive data from inappropriate use by entities/ persons who may otherwise harm you or your identity.

As a natural person (owner of the data), you have the right to be informed of how information about you is collected, used, stored or shared. Being aware of your privacy rights is key to ensuring your data does not fall into the wrong hands, or used for the wrong reasons without your knowledge.

It is important to **know how your personal information is handled.**

Reach out to us or visit our website for more information about;

- how to file a complaint
- your data privacy rights
- how your complaints can be resolved
- general information on handling personal data

Email: complaint@odpc.go.ke

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